

**Next Meeting: May 1, 2002**

**10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of April 3, 2002, Meeting  
10:00 a.m.

Present: Deborah Canja, Kathleen Clegg, Glenda Hammond, Nancy Jackson, Jill Jacobs, Chris Lerchen (for Kim Kaster), Patricia Keller, Shari Krishnan, Phyllis Cox-Rebori (for Peggy McNeilly), Pam Mish, Bob Opsommer, Ginny Palubin, Sue Rabidioux, Debs Roush, Linda Keyway (for Patricia St. George), Marge Joslin (for Don Trap), Laurie VanderPloeg, Paul Kubicek (for Steve Wessels), Anne White-O'Hara  
Ex-Officio members: Doug Nurenberg (for Shari Falvay), Mark Larson, Rosanne Renauer, Craig Sparks, David Brock (for Jacquelyn Thompson)

Absent: Carolyn Belknap Bartz, Jill Blixt, Michael DeVault, Brenda Kotsis, Patricia Metz  
Brian Pianosi, Deb Russell, Larry Simpson, Randall VanGasse

OSE/EIS Staff: Sue Leach, Fran Loose

Guests: Dave Feller, Sandi Laham, Patricia Nowak, Bernie Travnika

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie VanderPloeg.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the April 3, 2002, meeting was considered. The follow item was amended:  
SEAC Agenda item X:

- State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education Changes and Updates

Debs Roush moved, seconded by Deborah Canja, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the March 6, 2002, meeting were considered. Member issues should indicated that the PAC conference this year will be held on August 1 and 2. Ginny Palubin moved, seconded by Paul Kubicek, to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Chairperson's Report – Laurie VanderPloeg

SEAC members were reminded of the recommendation information that was presented at the March 6, 2002, meeting by Brian Pianosi and Steve Wessels. These recommendations will be voted on at the May 1, 2002, meeting; SEAC members should review that material prior to the meeting.

The newly elected Executive Committee for the 2002-2003 year was announced as follows: Kathleen Clegg, Shari Krishnan, Pam Mish, Debs Roush, Larry Simpson, Steve Wessels, and Randall VanGasse.

The process for nominating the Chair and Vice-Chair was reviewed; Step C of the Officers and Members section of the SEAC Bylaws. The current Executive Committee is recommending to SEAC that Shari Krishnan be elected as Chair and Steve Wessels be elected as Vice-Chair for the 2002-2003 Executive Committee. Ballots for the Chair and Vice-Chair nominations will be mailed in April to all SEAC members who should make their selections and return the ballot for counting.

SEAC members were reminded and encouraged to complete their meeting evaluation forms.

State Department Report – David Brock

Dr. Bernie Travnika delivered a presentation on the evolution of the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) initiative in Michigan. Bernie indicated that when the PBS initiative began three years ago, Michigan was considerably behind the other 20 states that were working with the PBS initiative. Bernie made mention that as of June 30, 2002, he will no longer be the Director of PBS in Michigan, and that the State Improvement Grant (SIG) is currently assembling an RFP for the PBS initiative.

David Brock indicated that the Draft Rules for Special Education are still being reviewed by the Office of Regulatory Reform and the Legislative Services Bureau. The Legislative Services Bureau must first certify these Rules and then they will be presented to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. It is anticipated that the Rules will be before the Joint Committee and finalized by July 1, 2002.

When the Rules are promulgated, the State IEP manual and form, procedural safeguards, monitoring standards, and other procedures will need revisions in the near future, and the complaint investigation process is currently being revised. SEAC members who wish to be involved in the revision of the complaint process should indicate so by including their name on the sign-up sheet.

Tentative plans are underway for developing an informational CD-ROM that could be considered a "library" for special education. This CD would be similar in nature to the MI Access CD and would put special education information directly in the hands of teachers and parents. With such a tool, teachers and parents alike would be able to research all special education rules and guidelines with ease and the CD could prove to be a very useful tool. It is expected that the development of such a CD would take approximately six months and distribution could be made through the Center for Educational Networking.

The last Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP) session was held in Novi on March 21 and 22, 2002. The CIMP Committee reviewed considerations for due process including mediations, hearings and complaints. The CIMP committee is reviewing the basic causes for difficulty. The public needs to be educated about protection and procedural safeguards. Currently, suits are being filed due simply to lack of knowledge. Experts in due process will be consulted during this process. The current training that is being conducted on these issues has not proven to be quite adequate.

The report for Michigan's Plan for Continuous Improvement is due to Washington, DC, in June. The draft for parts B and C has been completed. The report will address compliance issues and other ways to improve special education in Michigan.

#### State Board Meeting Report – David Brock

The State Board reviewed information on MI Access and Standard setting at the March meeting. Currently there are two ISD plans being modified; Kalamazoo RESA and Wexford-Missaukee.

The Board will be approving SEAC Delegates and Alternates at their April meeting.

#### Information Items

##### A. State Improvement Grant (SIG) Update – Fran Loose

The Personnel Development Collaborative is scheduled for June 25-27, 2002, at the Crystal Mountain Resort. Eight possible topic areas have been identified and feedback is expected from attendees in order to provide training on the six most requested topic areas. After the six topic areas have been identified, the facilitators will begin their preparations for the scheduled meetings.

##### B. Preparation for Priority Setting Meeting – Laurie VanderPloeg

A review was done of the Preparation for Priority Setting process. SEAC was reminded that they will begin to identify their priorities for the 2002-2003 year but must keep in mind that, dependant on other agenda items that will surface during the year, all SEAC priorities might not be addressed. Discussion followed.

##### C. State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education – Bob Opsommer

The Committee of the Whole reviewed the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) handouts and the revisions made to steps 7 –10. Discussion followed regarding the appropriate wording for these steps. Laurie VanderPloeg recommended that the LRE document go back to committee for final revisions and its was agreed that the Policy Committee would have a working lunch to come to consensus on the appropriate wording for the recommendation.

#### Action Items

None

Ex-Officio Reports

*Michigan Department of Career Development/Rehabilitation Services* – Rosanne Renauer reported to the Committee of the Whole that the Michigan Rehabilitation Services Agency, which is funded by OCERS, is accepting public comment through June 30, 2002, on the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, funds the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. The Rehabilitation Act is designed to address the needs of all individuals who are of employment age. The Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act is expected to occur in October 2003. The last time the Rehabilitation Act was reauthorized it was free-standing but has now been folded into the Workforce Investment Act as under a separate title. Discussion Followed.

Committee Reports

*Operations* — Glenda Hammond reported for Operations Committee, reminding SEAC members that the Committee of the Whole will be voting in May on the proposed Bylaws, Establishing a Procedure for Filling Organizational Vacancies, and Clarifying Parliamentary Procedures and the Vice Chairperson's Role as a Parliamentary Resource. It was suggested that a procedure for visitors be created. The Operations Committee will draft a procedure for SEAC review.

*Policy* — Bob Opsommer reported for Steve Wessels. During lunch, the Policy Committee will be working on the LRE document and if enough members were present, they would continue to work with the PAC issues.

*State Improvement Plan* — Shari Krishnan reported that the Committee is working on the preliminary definition of "access" and firming up additional language in their committee work.

Member Issues

Laurie VanderPloeg reported that the back page of the March CEN Newslines defines SEAC and members may want to review it.

Marge Lapointe reported that the ADHD conference will be held April 22, 2002, at the Clarion in Lansing.

Paul Kubicek inquired about House Bill 4990, which will increase SEAC membership. There was no known status.

Future Agenda Items:

None.

The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Monica Butler  
Recording Secretary

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee  
Minutes of April 3, 2002, Meeting  
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Kathleen Clegg, Shari Krishnan, Sandi Laham, Sue Leach, Fran Loose, Pam Mish, Bob Opsommer, Ginny Palubin, Laurie VanderPloeg

### Review of Today's Agenda

The agenda was reviewed, agenda changes will include the addition of the State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education wording update.

### Future Agenda Development

Vikki Seger has been asked to attend the SIP subcommittee meetings to assist with the SIP Subcommittee presentation that is tentatively planned to be given in June.

### State Department Report

An update on the Proposed Rules for Special Education will be provided to the Committee of the Whole, as well as updates on the current activity in the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services. A sign-up sheet requesting volunteers to assist with document revisions will be circulated.

### Subcommittee Reports

*Operations* — The Executive Committee suggested that the calendar for the 2002-2003 year be reviewed to adjust meeting dates around holidays, spring breaks, and large organizational conferences.

*SIP* — Shari Krishnan reported that the committee will be continuing their definition work from last month and hopefully coming to agreement on the wording.

*Policy* – Bob Opsommer reported that the committee will be discussing PAC issues and having further discussion on the LRE statement to be sure everything is set for the recommendation to be voted on at the May 1, 2002, meeting.

### Miscellaneous

- Nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Discussion was held around the nomination for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Executive Committee. Following established procedures, the Executive Committee recommended Shari Krishnan as Chair and Steve Wessels as Vice-Chair. Ballots for voting will be sent to SEAC in April with the opportunity for write-ins.

- Subcommittee Chairperson 2002-03

The Committee reviewed the process for appointing Subcommittee Chairpersons and appointments will be reviewed at the May 1, 2002, meeting.

Site recommendations will be taken at the May 1, 2002, meeting for the Fall SEAC retreat. Recommendations should be submitted to Monica Butler, SEAC Recording Secretary.

- Absence Letter

The Committee reviewed the Bylaws policy of Excessive Absence and Participation. It has been suggested that the procedure for notification be reviewed at orientation so that all new SEAC members are aware of the process of notification of excessive absence.

Submitted by,  
Monica Butler